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Hoopeston Area board approves closing Honeywell School

A motion to close Honeywell Grade School after the 2016-17 year was slow in coming at Thursday's Hoopeston Area School Board meeting.

Board president Russ Walder read the action item, seeking a member to make the motion, finally asking Mark Schaumburg, building and grounds committee chairman, if he would do so.

With a motion by Schaumburg and a second by Lisa Leigh, the board voted unanimously to close the building after the coming school year.

The building and grounds committee has studied the issue for many months, announcing at a May 31 public forum that members would recommend the school be closed.

Several reasons were cited for the closing, including declining enrollment; the cost of updating the building, erected in 1927; and cost savings on salaries for a principal, custodian, secretary and cafeteria workers, estimated at \$253,000.

Honeywell students will be moved to John Greer, which will house third through fifth grade. Sixth grade students, who currently go to John Greer, will move to Hoopeston Area Middle School.

During the course of this year, officials will work out details of the transition plan, such as how to shuttle students who currently ride buses from Honeywell to other grade centers.

As for the structure, if a sustainable use for the building is not found, officials plan to demolish it rather than leave it to decay in its residential neighborhood.

In unrelated business, the board heard from Jim Helton, member of the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) regarding a planned search for a superintendent to replace Hank Hornbeck, who will retire in 2017.

Shelton told the board that it needs to make decisions,

like dates when the board will be available to interview candidates and the hiring date of the new superintendent.

Also, board members and other district staff, along with the community, will be asked for input on what qualities the board should look for in a new leader.

The board will meet in special session at 7 p.m. Monday to meet again with Helton to finalize some details of the superintendent search.

In other business, the board:

- Approved paying \$7,400 to the IASB for the superintendent search.
- Approved membership in the IASB, with annual dues of \$4,120.
- Approved student policy manuals for Maple, Honeywell, John Greer and the middle school.
- Heard from Hornbeck that after more than three years, the district has a teacher evaluation instrument that includes both an updated professional practice component and the addition of student growth information.
- Heard from John Greer Principal Dan Walder that former student Adam Sinn donated money to the school in honor of Margaret Mulcahey, who retired in May after serving 40 years as an educator in the area. She tutored Sinn when he was in school.

The \$10,000 donation will be used for the school's library, Walder said.

- Approved transfers of Keli Egan from kindergarten teacher to third grade teacher; John Klaber from middle school science teacher to middle school student services coordinator; Tom Sage from high school English to high school history; Tina Ailey from third grade teacher to fourth grade teacher; and Heather Cloud from middle school personal aide to Maple classroom aide.

All will be effective August 18.

- Approved volunteers Bryce Leigh with middle and

See **HOOPESTON AREA** on other side

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Tuesday: Meatloaf 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
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Friday: Fish 11a-2p & 5-8p

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Briefly

Retirement party for chaplain

Hoopeston Police Department will honor retiring Chaplain, the Rev. Lewis Mershon, from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 20 at Hoopeston City Hall. Mershon has served the department as chaplain for 11 years.

Everyone is invited to join the department in honoring Rev. Mershon for his years of voluntary service to the community.

Reservation reminder

John Greer High School Class of 1953 members are reminded to make reservations for the yearly class luncheon at 1 p.m. Friday, July 22 at Autumn Fields. Reservations are required and should be made by July 1 to Bette Schmid or Ruth Neathery.

Soccer signups

Youth Soccer sign ups have begun for the 2016 Danville Area Soccer Association fall season. Hoopeston

Area boys and girls ages 4-14 as of January 1, 2016 can sign up at: www.danvillesoccer.org. Register before July 16 to avoid a late charge.

Practices for Hoopeston teams in Hoopeston should begin early August. First games are August 20. Contact Kevin Jett at (217) 772-1971 or kjett4@gmail.com with any questions or for registration assistance.

Law firm open house

William Nelson, James Brougher, William Townsley, Andrew Mudd and Kaylan Huber will hold an open house for their law office from 2-5 p.m. June 24. The office of Kesler, Nelson, Garman, Brougher & Townsley, P.C., is at 207 E. Main St., Hoopeston.

Food and drinks will be provided.

HPL Summer Reading Club

This week at Hoopeston Public Library Summer Reading Club:

From the Blotter

A **16-year-old** Hoopeston boy was ticketed for possession of cannabis after police checked on an unoccupied vehicle at 3:05 a.m. Friday in the city lot in the 200 block of South Market. When picking up garbage around the vehicle, an officer saw cannabis in the vehicle.

The boy was mailed a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident re-

ported at 6:18 a.m. Friday in the 600 block of West Washington. An unknown vehicle hit a parked 2010 Chevrolet owned by Joshua R. Miller, of Hoopeston.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 4:11 p.m. Friday in the 700 block of West Orange.

Police said Jordan Merrill, of Hoopeston, was east-bound in a 2000 Pontiac Sunfire and struck and east-bound 2010 Ford Mustang driven by Zachary Gwinn, also of Hoopeston, who had slowed down.

Hoopeston Area continued from other side

high school baseball teams; Brooke Walsh, high school girls basketball; Kade Ramos, high school football team; and Ron Cade, high school football team. All have a starting date of June 16.

- Approved resignations of Clint Mathewson, high school social studies teacher, effective June 2; Amber Fell, high school girls JV basketball coach, effective June 16; Allison Naese, sixth grade teacher, effective June 6; Kristin Bishop, fourth grade teacher, effective June 6; Shane Drayer, high school boys basketball coach, effective June 9; and Larry Maynard, high school head football coach, effective June 16.

- Hired, effective August 18, Jessica Lange, Honeywell

library and classroom aide; Jordan Hollingsworth, JV volleyball coach; Jill Gooding, sixth grade teacher; Kim Bergstedt, K-6 social worker; Kori Balk, sixth grade teacher; Sara Anderson, John Greer spelling team coach; Nicholas Petersen, middle school English language arts teacher; Tom Sage, high school National Honor Society sponsor; and David Jacobs, high school PE teacher and high school head football coach.

Weather

Mostly sunny, then chance of storms today. High 93. Tonight, scattered storms. Low 64. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 83, low 61.

- Kids who just completed grades K-6 can design their own superhero's comic book from 2-3 p.m. Monday under the direction of local artist David Webber.

- From 10-11 a.m. Thursday, attend "The History of Superheroes" by the Museum of the Grand Prairie. This is at time change from the 2 p.m. start time that was previously announced.

- On Friday, youngsters ages three to five who have not attended kindergarten are invited to Hidden Heroes with Mrs. Arnold and Mrs. Hambleton. The program will be from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Dental screening

Presence United Samaritans Medical Center, HALO Project, Colgate-Bright Smiles Bright Futures and Orland Park Dental Services will hold "Smiling Faces Dental Days" in Vermilion County.

The screening meets requirements for children in kindergarten, second and sixth grades.

The dental van will be at McFerren Park from 9-11 a.m. June 23.

Court Dispositions

May 5

Theodore Cano, Hoopeston, fined \$280 at sentencing for general nuisance; status hearing June 2.

Kelly Coffey, Hoopeston, case dismissed.

Chase Hensley, Hoopeston, fined \$280 at sentencing for assault; status hearing June 2.

Classifieds

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